

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04268 081100Z

17  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

IO-13 /073 W

----- 022533

P R 080935Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6164

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4268

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, KU

SUBJ: NEW KUWAITI CABINET ANNOUNCED

REF: KUWAIT 4219

1. ON SEPT 6, EIGHT DAYS AFTER RECEIVING RESIGNATIONS OF  
PREVIOUS KUWAITI CABINET, AMIR NAMED NEW CABINET (COUNCIL  
OF MINISTERS) OF 19 MINISTERS, INCREASED BY THREE MINISTERS  
OVER FORMER CABINET. ALL PREVIOUS MINISTERS WERE RETURNED  
TO PREVIOUS POSTS EXCEPT ABDULLA MIFFREJ, FORMERLY MINISTER  
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04268 081100Z

OF JUSTICE AND ISLAMIC AFFAIRS, WHO RETAINS ONLY JUSTICE

PORTFOLIO. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ISLAMIC AFFAIRS SPLIT OFF AND ASSIGNED TO NEW MINISTER, YUSUF JASSIM AL HAJJI, WHO WAS NAMED MINISTER FOR AWKAF AND ISLAMIC AFFAIRS. IN ADDITION, TO NEW MINISTRIES CREATED:

A. MINISTRY OF PLANNING UNDER NEW MINISTER MOHAMAD AL ADASANI. HE IS VETERAN DIPLOMAT AND WAS KUWAITI AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON BEFORE BEING NAMED TO CABINET.

B. MINISTRY OF LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS, UNDER NEW MINISTER SHEIKH SALMAN AL DUAIJ AL SABAH, WHO HAD BEEN ATTACHED TO CABINET STAFF WITH UNDERSECRETARY RANK AND IS MEMBER OF RULING SABAH FAMILY. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT FUNCTION OF THIS MINISTRY WILL BE TO TAKE OVER, FOR THE CABINET, MUCH OF THE LEGISLATIVE FUNCTION OF THE DISSOLVED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ASSEMBLY'S STAFF PERSONNEL WILL COME UNDER MINISTRY'S CONTROL.

2. COMMENT: AFTER WIDE SPECULATION ON NEW FACES AND DISAPPEARANCE OF OLD ONES IN FORMER CABINET, RETURN OF ALL PREVIOUS MINISTERS IS ANTI-CLIMAX TO PROCESS OF CABINET REORGANIZATION. WE HAVE ONE REPORT, HOWEVER, WHICH INDICATES THAT SABAH FAMILY CONSIDERS SOME HOLDOVER MINISTERS TO BE ON PROBATION, SINCE THEIR PERFORMANCE IN PREVIOUS CABINET WAS NOT FULLY SATISFACTORY. PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY RETAINED THEM UP TO NOW BECAUSE IT WAS RECOGNIZED THEIR PERFORMANCE WAS AFFECTED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INACTION THREAT OF PUBLIC CRITICISM AND DEMANDS ON THEIR TIME. THESE MINISTERS THUS WILL BE TESTED IN NEW ENVIRONMENT IN ABSENCE OF ASSEMBLY.

3. ONLY IDEOLOGICALLY INTERESTING NEWCOMER TO CABINET IS MINISTER OF ISLAMIC AFFAIRS WHO PRESS (AL QABAS, SEPT 7) INDICATES IS A MEMBER OF CONSERVATIVE (SOME SAY FANATIC OR PURITANICAL) SOCIAL REFORM SOCIETY. THIS SOCIETY IS MAIN RELIGIO-POLITICAL FORCE IN KUWAIT; IT WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN HAVING LIQUOR OUTLAWED (OCTOBER 1964) AND IT REMAINS A FORCE TO CONTEND WITH.  
MAESTRONE

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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